(e) In addition to modernisation, undertaken in Rourkela, Bokaro and Durgapur Steel Plants, SAIL is also taking steps on continuous basis to improve the profits and reduce losses which include increase in capacity utilisation, •improving productivity, introducing energy conservation measures etc.

Improvement in capacity utilisation and removal of causes that are responsible for losses in IISCO and contingent upon modernisation/revival of IISCO. As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR since 1994, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to-be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard. Similarly, RINL has taken measures including setting up of balancing facilities between the converter shop and CCD, imparting Training and skill development to the employees by both deputing them to the operating plants abroad as well as by arranging training at site through foreign specialists, taking up modifications of the plant and equipment to improve the production pick-up and pr6ductivity, capital restructuring, and cost reduction initiative to contain the cost of production and increase realisations.

Loss of Customs duty due to unlateral duty free access to Imports from SAPTA Countries

933. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will lose a maximum amount of Rs. 1ll crores on customs duty if it gives unilateral duty free access to imports from SAPTA countries;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has conducted a survey on measures to liberalise trade in SAARC;

(c) if so, the main points of the study; and

(d) the extent to which Government have examined the study report?

THE MINISTER OF.STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has conducted a study and prepared"* paper entitled "Measures to liberalise trade in SAARC: Revenue loss, trade diversion and competitivensess". In this paper revenue implications have been discussed for various duty concession options taking also into account the trade diversion that may take place as a result of granting duty free access to SAARC region. This study has estimated that unilateral duty free access to the Indian market for SAARC goods and diversion of trade would result in a customs duty loss of about Rs. 13S crores.

Steps to boost production of coal in Singareni Collieries

934. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal power production in NTPC and urea production in Fertilizer Corporation of India are hit by acute coal shortages; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to boost production of coal in Singareni Collieries affected due to main in open cast mine arise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. has been able to maintain the required level of coal supplies to the NTPC's unit at Ramagundem during the current year inspite of production constraints arising out of heavy rains and problems related with industrial relations in the company. The coal supplies vis-a-vis linkages during the period from April, 96 to October, 96 to this power station was as follows:—

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)
(Date provisional)

Linkage	Supply	% materialisation
50.75	52.33	103%

In addition to the above. the power station was offered additional quantity by road from a nearby colliery. The power house, however, did not avail of this offer.

The Ramagundem unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FC1) did not lift coal regularly during the period April-July, 96 due to their internal problems.

The plant is stated to have commenced regular operations only from August, 96. In August and September, 96 adequate supplies of coal could not be maintained. However, regular coal supplies from October, 96 are being made to this unit. The details regarding demand and coal supply to FCI from August, 96 till 21st November, 1996 are given below:—

(Fig. in lakh tonnes) (Date provisional)

Month	Demand	Supply	%age
August, 96	0.50	0.18	36
September, 96	0.50	0.43	86
October, 96	0.50	0.48	96
November, 96 (till 21st)	0.35	0.35	100

(b) SCCL have reported that the production in opencast mines during the monsoon season does get affected. The shortfall in production from opencast mines during the rainy season is made up to some extent by despatching coal from the ground stocks in the company. The consumers are also expected to build up adequate stocks of coal before the onset of monsoon to take care of the reduced supplies which are expected during this period.

Proposals envisaging foreign direct investment

935. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of proposals envisaging a foreign direct investment of Rs. 2428 crores and projected export earnings of Rs. 419 crores have been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, names of such proposals, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to invite FDI proposals from Assam too for smooth growth of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A statement showing such proposals, state-wise and Union Territory-wise is attached as Annexure. *[See Appendix* 179, *Annexure No* 18]

Choice of location of projects depends on the commercial judgement of investors. It depends on the availability of adequate and dependable infrastructure facilities such as Power, Land, Water etc. The State Governments also provide incentives and subsidies for attracting investment as industrial development within the State/Union Territory is their responsibility. Many State Governments have been actively encouraging foreign investment through various promotional measures The Central Government supports and supplements such efforts of all State Governments.

Government constantly reviews the policy framework for foreign investment so as to make it increasingly investor-friendly and internationally competitive.

Lack of modern infrastrnctural facilities in the coal mines to prevent accidents

936. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a number of coal mines disasters in the country taking a heavy toll of life, Government have critically examined the lack of infrastructure in the coal mines to prevent the mine accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the coal mines where dismal conditions continue to prevail with primitive infrastructure; and

(c) the strategy contemplated by the Government to provide modern infrastructure in the coal mines in a phased manner to prevent mine disasters?

THE MINISTER .OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY-OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), under the Mines Act, 1952, is the statutory authority to enforce safety provisions in all the mines and all mines are regularly inspected by the officers of DGMS.

Wherever there occurs an accident involving a large number of casualties, the Government constitutes a Court of Inquiry